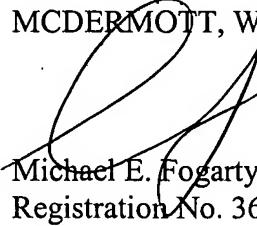


REMARKS

The above-referenced application is amended to cancel claims 1-6 and add new claims 7-12. Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

  
Michael E. Fogarty  
Registration No. 36,139

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
(202) 756-8000 MEF:prg  
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087  
**Date: January 6, 2004**